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## *Smart Growth Initiatives*

*Smart Growth* initiatives tie education and economic development together in new ways to create quality opportunities for the people of North Dakota.

### **K-12 And Higher Education Funding To Ensure Excellence In Education**

- Increased **Teacher Compensation** another \$1,500 committing \$31 million in new funds and raising teacher compensation a total of \$4,500 over the 2001-2003 and 2003-2005 biennium.
- Raised **Foundation Aid** over prior baseline pupil payment 7.5 percent increasing per student payments an additional \$26.5 million; established **Hold Harmless Fund** of \$1.2 million and increased **Tuition Apportionment** \$2.2 million.
- Significantly improved funding equity among our school districts by increasing **Supplemental Equity Payments** \$1 million for a total of \$3.2 million; increased **Foundation Aid Per-Pupil Payment Weighting Factor** from 65 percent to 100 percent; and increased special education funding \$13.8 million.
- Fully implemented **Higher Education Roundtable** recommendations enabling the University System to leverage state resources with private-sector and federal research dollars to help drive economic growth and job creation.

### **Investment And Venture Capital Funds To Help Create Quality Job And Career Opportunities**

- Committed \$5 million to develop **Centers of Excellence Fund** bringing expertise, quality instruction, and research to help stimulate quality jobs, new educational opportunities and our state's economic vitality.
- Established a \$10 million **New Venture Fund** in partnerships with the private sector, Small Business Administration and the Department of Commerce to provide significant resources for our businesses and entrepreneurs in developing new ventures and expansions. The New Venture Fund includes \$3 million in technical assistance.
- Created \$1 million **Seed Capital Fund** to support new ideas, new concepts and help entrepreneurs create new businesses.

### **Career Development Funds To Link College Graduates With Job Opportunities, Promote Career Opportunities And Recruit People To Our State**

- Allocated \$2 million for a **Business Internship Program** to fund internships in businesses where critical shortages in skilled workers exist. Program includes working with college students (i.e. NDSU students TIME Plan) and others to help develop and build internship programs throughout the state.
- Committed additional resources to further elevate the **North Dakota Career Counseling Network**; enhance **northdakotahasjobs.com** on-line job opportunity information.

## *Smart Growth Initiatives*

### Aggressively Market North Dakota

- **Decoupled the state corporate income tax** from the federal corporate tax on a revenue-neutral basis to attract more companies to our state and change perceptions to accurately reflect our true rate of 6.8 percent compared to the perceived rate of 10.5 percent.
- **Partnered with New Economy Initiative** leveraging federal and private sector funding to market North Dakota and promote *Ideafest*, a statewide business-plan competition to foster the best and brightest ideas in the state.
- Established **North Dakota Roots Program**, a low interest loan program to provide assistance for a home down payment and to help retain and attract people with needed skills.

### Statewide Technology Infrastructure Leader

- **Expand statewide high-speed voice, video and data network** to maintain our competitive advantage in linking North Dakota to the world.
- Build **ConnectND**, a first-in-the-nation computer software project positioning the University System and state government on one seamless system, creating new services, opportunities, efficiencies and savings.

*Our Smart Growth Initiatives, along with initiatives for agriculture and energy, such as our comprehensive program to develop ethanol, tax credits for wind energy and Lignite Vision 21 will help create quality jobs and grow North Dakota's economy.*